

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 9, 2012
9:00 a.m.
Literacy Volunteers, 141 Franklin Street, Stamford

Council Members Present:

Brennan, Karen	Stamford Discovery, United Way of Western CT
Burke, Jennienne Peoples	Care to Care (Family Centers)
Cook, Lucia	Literacy Volunteers of Stamford/Greenwich
D'Luc, Imelda	Stamford Head Start
Feder, Karen	Abilis
Garcia, Maritza	Adult Learning Center
Hallsisey, Jennifer	United Way of Western CT
Malloy, Pat	Stamford Public Schools
Morrow, Polly	Pitney Bowes/Parent Representative
Wenz, Karen	First Presbyterian Nursery School

Advisors:

Garvin-Kester, Barbara	Childcare Learning Centers
Sargent, Carol	Childcare Learning Centers
Tarantino, Sherry	Sacred Heart School

Guests:

Ahuja, Sonja	Liaison, Graustein Memorial Fund
Collins, Marilyn	Literacy Volunteers of Stamford/Greenwich
Rosenthal, Diane	Literacy Volunteers of Stamford/Greenwich

I. Welcome

Jennienne Burke, the School Readiness Council's interim chair welcomed everyone and thanked Literacy Volunteers for hosting the meeting this morning.

II. Announcements

- Jennienne congratulated Sherry Tarantino and the Sacred Heart team on their accreditation news. We are delighted that they are now officially NAEYC accredited. It is a wonderful testament to the hard work and organization of Sherry and her staff.
- The Council was reminded that Bridget's letter to the editor—touting the Stamford Public School transportation team's for the efforts on December 8—was published in the Stamford Advocate on December 22. Here is the link in case you didn't see it in the papers. Scroll down to the second letter: <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/article/Zoning-Board-shirked-responsibility-2420726.php>

- Jennienne recapped the Council's interim plans until a new chair is hired. Jennienne will serve as the interim co-chair with assistance from Jennifer Hallissey for the next three months. She will be the point person for any Council related issues or questions. Jennifer will be the point person for anything related Discovery, along with Karen Brennan. Karen Cammarota from the Grants Office will be the point person for everything related to the School Readiness Program and grants process. The Council will continue to meet monthly; the Executive Committee will meet on an as needed basis.
- Barbara Garvin-Kester shared news of the high level plan that went to the Governor's office in January calling the creation of a coordinated system of early learning and development. The plan is vague in many areas and how it will be interpreted and implemented is still up in the air. Councils such as this one are still a large part of the program. While the plan calls for the system to be in place by this July, the reality is that it will likely be another year. The report will be shared with the Council via e-mail.

III. Regular Reports

- Reports from Sacred Heart and CLC were sent to the Council in advance of the meeting and are included as Addendums to this report.
- Carol added that multiple Kindergarten nights will be offered to their families in the coming weeks. These orientations are meant to introduce parents to the registration and lottery process, and help with all issues that relate to Kindergarten transition. The question of whether a night could be offered to the general public was raised and Jennienne and Karen Brennan will follow up with Michele Sabia to see if this might be possible to offer, either at Government Center or the library or some other convenient location.
- The Health & Wellness Committee met this past Monday and continues to focus on mental health. At the meeting, members of the Child Guidance Center staff spoke about the trends in mental health and about common myths and signs of child sexual abuse. Importantly, we learned that the Child Guidance Center is working to train "Discovers"—volunteers in the community who can learn how best to respond when a student is making a disclosure or when abuse is suspected. Trainings can be set up at anyone's request. For more information, contact Ellie Hartog, Director Interagency Collaboratives, 203-324-6127, email ellie.hartog@childguidance.org.
- The Education Committee continues to plan for the fall 2012 professional development conference at UConn Stamford. Nationally renowned consultant, presenter, author, and classroom teacher Judy Jablon will be our inaugural presenter and facilitator. Her topic will be on "Powerful Interactions" and how every decision you make about what you say and do as you interact with young children influences how they feel about themselves, their attitudes toward learning, how they develop, and what they learn.
- The Parent Outreach Committee will meet next week and will begin planning for Play and Learn nights and the Early Childhood Education Fair.

IV. Old Business

- Jennienne recapped last month's discussion around the unmet preschool need here in Stamford. She has identified a number of data sets to review including one from the Discovery list serve and one from the CT State Data Center web site from UConn. If anyone is interested in joining a small committee of three or four people to help review the data and report back to the Council please let her know. Karen Cammarota from the Grants Office will be assisting us with the data review. She and Jennienne will be meeting on Wednesday, January 18.
- The Right from the Start survey will be resent to the Council in the hopes of generating more response. Sonja will assemble the results and bring them to the February meeting.

V. New Business

Diane Rosenthal, the Executive Director from Literacy Volunteers gave a brief presentation on the work of her organization. In brief:

- Literacy Volunteers works with over 560 adult students each year in ESOL programs (English Speaking Other Languages).
- As one of the oldest volunteer organizations in the community, they will celebrate their 40th anniversary in 2013.
- Over 120 volunteers work with them each year in a variety of locations: 141 Franklin Street, West Broad Street, the First Congregational Church, Domus, and the Greenwich Y, library and First Presbyterian Church.
- Eight years ago, they become part of the State Education System and they now work closely with Maritza Garcia from the Adult Learning Center.
- In addition to ESL classes, they offer a number of workplace and job training programs (Bridges to Success, a program serving young adults with customer service skills, and Project WIN, a workplace program especially for low income women).
- 44% of their population is between ages 25-44. These are people in their prime working and family years. Education makes a huge difference in their lives and in the lives of younger generations.

For more information, visit their web site at www.lvsg.org. Lucia Cook will continue to share class flyers with the Council on a regular basis to share with those you work with.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

**The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8
at Pitney Bowes, 1 Elmcroft Road.**

Addendum A: Sacred Heart Report, January 2012

Program Utilization:

- School Day – School Year – 49 Students
- Pre – K 3 Class – 18
- Pre – K 4 Class #1-15
- Pre – K 4 Class #2-16
- All 20 School Readiness slots are full.

Program Attendance:

- Children – 85% Colds, ear infections, fevers, stomach, strep throat
- Staff – 90% (Colds, personal emergencies)

Staffing:

- Sean Tarantino – Floater/Aide was informed that his hours will be changed from full-time to part-time starting in January 2011.

Activities & Events:

- SHS students attended the performance of “Goodnight Moon” at the Palace Theatre on 12/8. The children enjoyed the bus ride as much as the performance itself.
- Purple Bus trip to the Ferguson Library for the two 4 year old classrooms. The children enjoyed the one hour program filled with many literacy activities.
- SHS hosted the annual Holiday Celebration for parents, children and staff. This holiday event was combined with a NAEYC celebration. The director surprised each staff member with a special NAEYC accreditation pin and sheet cake.
- SHS was closed between 12/23/11 – 1/2/12 for the Holiday break.
- An asbestos abatement took place during the holiday break - 12/27 – 12/30/11 due to a water pipe break during Thanksgiving weekend that created damage in both a bathroom and one classroom. The final wall repair is currently taking place. The classroom that was affected by the abatement/repair set up class in our gym area and will return back to their classroom as soon as repair is done.

Addendum B: Childcare Learning Centers Report, January 2012

- Program Utilization
 - a. Authorized Capacity – Full Day – 334; Part Day – 97; Extended Day – 113 = 544
 - b. Ages: 3 year olds – 165; 4 year olds – 379; 5 year olds - 0
 - c. Children with disabilities = 18 with IEP; 3 without IEP
 - d. Notes and Trends: N/A
- Program Attendance:
 - a. 100% Attendance.
 - b. Notes and trends: - none
- Staffing
 - a. Open Positions – 1 Teacher in Cluster C
 - b. Recruitment – ad on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC
 - c. Training:
 - Bi-weekly meetings occurring on NAEYC Standards
 - Instructional Coordinators meet weekly with each classroom to review Learning Experience Plans
 - December 14th – “Training Wheels” Cluster E and Cluster C Team attended.
 - December 7th – Staff Development Day – Preparing Classroom Portfolios for NAEYC Accreditation
- Special Events/Activities:
 - Teachers are preparing lesson plans based on the Preschool Curriculum Standards and the individual needs of the children.
 - Parent Advisory Committee meeting occurred on December 20th.
 - Behavioral Health team is meeting bi-weekly to discuss any children with challenging behaviors
 - Lunch and Learn – “Nutrition-Back to Basics” presented by Jamie Lee McIntyre occurred on December 14th
 - Field trip to Palace Theatre – “Good Night Moon” and “Runaway Bunny” for whole agency – December 8th
 - Cluster B – field trip to Stamford High Preschool Lab- December 2nd, December 9th, and December 16th.
 - Cluster C – field trip to Stamford High Preschool Lab – December 6th and December 20th.
 - Reading Is Fundamental. and “Come Visit with Me” activity – December 20th and 21st.
 - Teacher have been conducting Parent/Teacher conferences sharing the Child Profile, Language Samples, and Work Samples
 - Notes and trends- N/A